

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. General Remarks

Applicants respectfully request that the above amendments be entered and further request reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and the remarks contained herein. Additionally, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner accept and consider remarks submitted with their September 12, 2006 Amendment, and withdraw the outstanding objections and rejections to the pending claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

II. Remarks Regarding Non-Compliant Amendment

On September 12, 2006, Applicants filed an Amendment and Response Under 37 CFR 1.111 to the Non-Final Office Action Mailed June 12, 2006 (“the September 12, 2006 Amendment.”) (A copy of Applicants’ September 12, 2006 Amendment is attached to this response for the Examiner’s convenience.) On September 28, 2006, the Patent Office issued a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (“the Notice”), indicating that the substitute specification did not have a marked up copy included.

Applicants submitted with the September 12, 2006 Amendment a substitute specification pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.125 in accordance with the Examiner’s suggestion. 37 CFR 1.125(c) states: “A substitute specification submitted under this section must be submitted with markings showing all the changes relative to the immediate prior version of the specification of record. The text of any added subject matter must be shown by underlining the added text. The text of any deleted matter must be shown by strike-through except that double brackets placed before and after the deleted characters may be used to show deletion of five or fewer consecutive characters...*Numbering the paragraphs of the specification of record is not considered a change that must be shown pursuant to this paragraph.*” 37 CFR 1.125(c), emphasis added.

As Applicants had only changed the paragraph numbering in the specification, submission of only a clean version of the specification without markings was sufficient, and the submission of a marked up copy was not necessary. *See* 37 CFR 1.125(c). Thus the amendments to the specification submitted in the September 12, 2006 Amendment were compliant with 37 CFR 1.125(c). However, to prevent further delay in prosecution, Applicants herein submit a marked up copy of the amendments to the specification.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner accept and consider Applicants' amendments to the specification, remarks, and information disclosure statement submitted with their September 12, 2006 Amendment, and withdraw the outstanding objections and rejections to the pending claims.

SUMMARY

In light of the above remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the Amendment is now compliant and is now in condition for examination by the Examiner. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney of record by telephone, facsimile, or electronic mail.

Applicants believe that there are no fees due in association with this filing of this Response. However, should the Commissioner deem that any additional fees are due, including any fees for extensions of time, Applicants respectfully request that the Commissioner accept this as a Petition Therefor, and direct that any additional fees be charged to the Deposit Account of Halliburton Energy Services, Inc., No. 08-0300.

Respectfully submitted,



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